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ABSTRACT

A 1977 preliminary study for the Community Education Advisory Council of Blanchard, Oklahoma, done in conjunction with the Blanchard Public Schools, sought to determine the need for and receptivity to the possible development of a community education program. The survey instrument, administered using a random sample and personal interview method, determined educational, recreational, and cultural needs for all age groups in the Blanchard area. The goal of sampling 100 households was attained and represented 317 people's interest in specific areas, preferred times and days for activities, need for child care, transportation, possible workers for the program, and willingness to provide financial support for the program. Information cards were given those who indicated they would provide assistance as an instructor or program assistant. There was a positive feeling within the community regarding the school system and a community education program. Recommendations included the need for careful planning, that the school board should consider the development of a community education program, and that further study should be conducted concerning the location of the program. Tables, compiled from data collected, are found throughout the report. (AH)

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Final Report

Community Education Interest Study

of the

Blanchard, Oklahoma Area

July, 1977

Conducted under the auspices of the

Community Education Center

Oklahoma State University

at the request of the

Community Education Advisory Council

of Blanchard

by

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Edited by

Dr. Deke Johnson, Director

Introduction

This report is the result of a preliminary study for the Community Education Advisory Council of Blanchard, Oklahoma in conjunction with the Blanchard Public Schools. The purpose of this study was to determine the need for and receptivity to the possible development of a Community Education program. The study was done under the auspices of the Community Education Center of Oklahoma State University in cooperation with students enrolled in the Summer Session Community Education classes at Oklahoma State University and the Blanchard Community Education Advisory Council. The data was collected July 14, 1977 following a series of planning sessions and meetings with members of the Blanchard Advisory Council and members of the Oklahoma State University Community Education classes. An agreement was reached between the Advisory Council and Dr. Deke Johnson, Director of Community Education at O.S.U., committing the Community Education students at O.S.U. to assist with the project.

The Method of Study

The primary objective of the preliminary study was to determine educational, recreational and cultural needs for all age groups in the Blanchard Area. This objective was accomplished by conducting a survey which identified needs and resources.

Content for the survey instrument was developed by the Blanchard Community Eudcation Advisory Council. This instrument was developed by graduate students at O.S.U. who were enrolled in the Community Education courses. The instrument was reviewed and approved by the Blanchard Community Education Advisory Council.

The instrument was administered using a random sample and a personal interview method. This process was made possible with the assistance of the

Public Service Company of Oklahoma and the Rural Electric Cooperative of Oklahoma who provided listings of the 1852 households in the Blanchard area. These households were numbered from 1 through 1852 and the selection of 100 primary and 100 alternate addresses were selected by using a table of random numbers.

The survey team established a goal of completion of 100 surveys upon which to base survey results and predictions. This goal of 100 samples was attained, and represents 317 people. The survey was administered by Oklahoma State University graduate students, with the assistance of volunteers from the community. The survey was used to identify the age range of people in the area, interest in specific areas, preferred times and days for activities, need for child care and transportation, possible instructors and other workers for the program, and willingness to provide financial support for the program. Information cards were also given those surveyed who indicated they would provide assistance as an instructor or program assistant. The cards were to be returned to the Blanchard Post Office.

Analysis of Data
General Information

A total of 100 surveys were completed with 94 (94%) of the respondents indicating very positive response to the survey and the community education concept. Six respondents stated that they were either unwilling to provide the requested information or they were not interested in participating in a Community Education program.

The 100 interviews represent 5.4% of the survey area's population since the list provided by the electric companies represented an area including 1852 households. A total of 317 people reside in the households interviewed. Thus, the average size of a family in the Blanchard area is 3.17.

Age Distribution

Respondents were asked to indicate the age of the residents in their households. These were grouped into the following categories: 0 to 5 years, 6 to 17 years, 18 to 30 years, 31 to 55 years and over 55 years. The results are indicated in Table I below:

Table I
Age levels represented by survey

Age Group	Number in Age Group	Percent Indicated
0-5 years	27	8.5%
6-17 years	89	28.0%
18-30 years	52	16.0%
31-55 years	111	35.0%
over 55 years	38	12.5%

Transportation and Distance From School

Respondents were asked to indicate if they would need transportation in order to participate in the program. Results indicated 15 (15%) would need transportation while 80 (80%) would not, and 5 (5%) did not respond. Respondents were also asked to indicate how far they live from the Blanchard school facilities. The results of the question are indicated in Table II below:

Table II
Distance from Blanchard School

Distances	Number Responding	Percent of Respondents
less than 1 mile	38	38%
1 to 3 miles	36	36%
further than 3 miles	22	22%
unknown	4	4%
	100	

Child Care

Respondents were asked if child care services would be necessary in order for them to participate in the program. 19 (19%) indicated yes, they would need this service while 71 (71%) indicated no and 10 (10%) did not respond.

Time and Day Preferences for Participation

Respondents were asked to indicate what day of the week and times of the day would be best for members of their families by age category if they were to participate in the program. The choices offered for time of day were "morning, afternoon, or evening".

Table III below indicates the days most preferred for participation while Table IV shows which time of day the respondents felt best for members of their households.

TABLE III
Days Preferred

Age Group \ Day	M	T	W	Th	F	S
0-5	15	17	14	19	10	12
6-17	29	36	26	29	23	22
18-30	17	15	16	12	8	11
31-55	34	36	24	33	23	26
over 55	19	18	16	18	17	18
TOTAL *	114	122	96	111	81	89

* Based on 317 people - Total number of people

** The number indicated in each age group represents the minimal interest in specific days.

TABLE IV
Time of Day Preferred

Age Group \ Time	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
0-5	8	11	15
6-17	5	12	38
18-30	6	11	24
31-55	12	12	47
over 55	9	9	19
TOTAL *	40	55	143

** The number indicated in each age group represents the minimum interest in specific times.

Readers of Local Newspaper

Respondents were asked if they received the Blanchard News. 69 (69%) do receive or read the Blanchard News while 23 (23%) do not, and 8 (8%) did not respond.

Funding for Program

Respondents were asked if they would be willing to pay to participate in the community education program. 83 (83%) responded that they would be willing to pay some amount while 11 (11%) would not be able to pay to participate and 6 (6%) did not respond. Table V displays the maximum amounts respondents indicated they would be willing to pay per session, and Table VI indicates the maximum amounts participants would be willing to pay per course of instruction.

TABLE V
Funding/Payments Per Session

Amount	Number Responding	% of Respondents
0	22	23.2%
50¢	17	18.1%
$1.00	20	21.4%
$1.50	7	07.4%
$2.00	24	25,6%
Unsure	4	04.3%
TOTAL	94	

TABLE VI
Funding/Payments Per Course

Amount	Number Responding	% of Respondents
0	20	21.2%
$2.00	11	11.7%
$5.00	11	11.7%
$10.00	26	27.0%
$15.00	22	23.4%
Unsure	4	4.0%
TOTAL	94	100.0%

PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS/CLERICAL ASSISTANTS

Respondents were asked if they would be willing to serve as program instructors or clerical assistants for the program. The results listed below in Table VII, indicate the percentage of respondents, excluding the 0 to 5 year old group, who indicated they would be willing to help with the program. Table VII also indicates if these instructors and clerical assistants would volunteer their services, or if they would expect pay.

Specific instructional areas can be determined following the return of the information cards.

TABLE VII
Instructors/Clerical Assistants

	yes	no	paid	volunteer
Instructors	43	50	15	26
Clerical Assistants	33	57	15	23

GED/ABE

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of family members who would possibly be interested in the GED program (High School Diploma) or who might be interested in some form of Adult Basic Education. The results indicated that 17 (17%) yes, they would be interested in pursuing a High School Diploma while 72 (72%) indicated no, they would not, and 11 (11%) did not respond. In response to Basic Adult Education, 32 (32%) indicated yes, they would be interested and 52 (52%) marked no, they would not be interested. 16 (16%) did not respond to the question.

FAMILY INTEREST AREAS

The survey listed 16 broad topics from which courses or activities could possibly be offered. Respondents were asked to indicate the areas in which members of their household (by age group) might participate.

Table VIII gives the numbers in each area of responses by age group and the precentage of the respondents in each age group which would participate.

TABLE VIII
Family Interest Areas

Areas (Age Group / Percent)	0-5 years Number	% of 27	6-17 years Number	% of 89	18-30 years Number	% of 52	31-55 years Number	% of 111	over 55 Number	% of 38	Total Number	% of
Business	0	0%	9	10%	11	21%	33	29%	6	16%	59	18%
Sports/Recreation	11	41%	45	50%	15	29%	30	27%	5	13%	106	33%
Home-making	1	4%	16	18%	18	34%	32	29%	8	21%	75	23%
Vo. - Tech	0	0%	17	19%	15	29%	21	19%	4	10%	57	18%
Agriculture	1	4%	9	10%	6	11%	17	15%	2	5%	35	11%
Arts & Crafts	5	18%	26	29%	19	36%	32	29%	7	18%	89	28%
Horticulture	0	0%	10	11%	15	29%	37	27%	6	16%	68	21%
Music	6	27%	37	41%	10	19%	14	12%	3	8%	70	22%
Religion	4	15%	14	16%	10	19%	18	16%	8	21%	54	17%
Parent Effectiveness Training	1	4%	2	1%	14	27%	72	64%	1	2%	35	11%
Defensive Driving	0	0%	10	11%	4	7%	13	11%	4	10%	31	9%
Photography	0	0%	3	2%	8	15%	8	7%	2	5%	21	6%
First Aid	1	4%	14	16%	19	36%	23	21%	6	16%	65	20%
Speed Reading	2	8%	18	21%	15	29%	14	12%	4	10%	53	16%
Expectant Parents	0	0%	1	.5%	1	.5%	3	4%	0	0%	5	2%
Home Repair	0	0%	4	3.3%	11	21%	28	25%	7	18%	50	15%
Total from age group	32		235		191		395		73		926	

Note: These percents represent the projected percentage of involvement by age groups for the entire survey area.

TABLE VIII - A
Interest Ranking By Age Group

0 - 5 Years	%	6 - 17 years	%	18 - 30 years	%
1. Sports/Recreation	41	1. Sports/Recreation	50	1. Arts & Crafts	36
2. Music	27	2. Music	41	First Aid	36
3. Arts & Crafts	18	3. Arts & Crafts	29	2. Home-making	34
4. Religion	15	4. Speed Reading	21	3. Sports/Recreation	29
		5. Vo-Tech	19	Vo-Tech	29
		6. Home-making	18	Horticulture	29
				Speed Reading	29
				4. Business	21
				Home Repair	21

* % = % of respondents in that age group.

31 - 55 years	%	Older than 55	%
1. Parent Effectiveness Training	64	1. Religion	21
2. Business	29	home-making	21
Home-making	29	2. Home repair	17
3. Arts and Crafts	29	Arts and Crafts	18
Horticulture	27	3. First Aid	16
4. Sports/Recreation	29	Horticulture	16
5. Home repair	25	Business	16
6. First Aid	21	4. Sports/Recreation	13

LOCATION OF VO - TECH INSTRUCTION

Respondents were asked if the location of the present Vo - Tech School which services the Blanchard area was suitable for participation for members of their families. 17 (17%) indicated yes, the present location was suitable, while 58 (58%) indicated no, the site was not suitably located. 25 (25%) had no opinion concerning the question.

ADDITIONAL INTEREST AREAS

Respondents were asked if there were any other areas of interest not mentioned in the survey they would possibly like to see offered in potential community education program. List A below, gives a complete listing from all 100 surveys of the additional areas of interest.

List A
Additional Interest Areas

Swimming (3)*
Gymnastics (2)
Cake decorating (2)
Senior Citizen Fellowship (2)
College Credit classes (2)
Barber classes
Law Enforcement
Wine Making
Tole Painting
Animal Training
Horse Shoeing
Canning
Tutoring Elementary School Children
Memory Improvement
Pattern design
Stitching (Embroidery)
Livestock Feeding (Feeds)
Real Estate
Candying
Camping
Archeological dig
Business Law
Old Car Rebuilding
Wrestling
Tennis
Golf
Modern Dance
Baseball
Movement Education
Learning disabilities
Hyperkinesis
Medical courses
Local Government
Road Repair
Community Life Improvement
Oil Painting
Drawing
Speed writing
Underground Housing
Solar Energy

* Number in parenthesis indicates frequency items were suggested.

OPINION OF SCHOOL AND/OR COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Respondents were asked to make any comments about the effectiveness of the Blanchard School System and/or comments about the Community Education Concept. A total of 48 (48%) people responded either positively or negatively, while 32 (32%) had no opinion and 20 (20%) people did not respond. Of the 48 who responded, an overwhelming 91% had positive comments about the school and Community Education concept. Only 4 (11%) of those responding had negative comments. List B indicates the positive comments made by respondents about Community Education and List C includes the negative comments about Community Education. List D and List E, respectively, indicate the positive and negative comments about the Blanchard School System.

List B
Community Education - Positive Comments

1. Opportunity to provide job training for women.
2. Opportunity to provide children something to do.
3. Sounds like something great for young people.

List C
Community Education - Negative Comments

1. Too old to participate.
2. Should wait a year to start Community Education after school is more settled.

List D
Blanchard School - Positive Comments

1. It's getting better.
2. Pleased with new superintendent.

List E
Blanchard Schools - Negative Comments

1. Need more individualized instruction.
2. Need arts and crafts in elementary.

3. Too many changes in leadership.

4. Leadership needs to be more stable.

5. Needs auditorium.

6. Need better girls' sports program.

7. Need larger curriculum.

8. Need program for special education children.

9. Need classes for children with learning disabilities.

Projections

The data represent 5.49% of the 1852 households in the Blanchard Area. The following projections were based on these data and the projected number represents the total number who would likely participate in each interest area, e.g., sports and recreation - 106 x 18.52 = 1963.12.

Projected Enrollments Based On Survey Results - Rank Ordered

Interest Area	Projected Number
Sports - Recreation	1,963.12
Arts & Crafts	1,648.28
Homemaking	1,389.00
Music	1,296.4
Horticulture	1,259.36
First Aid	1,203.8
Vo - Tech	1,055.64
Religion	1,000.08
Speedreading	981.56
Home Repairs	926.00
Agriculture	648.2
Defensive Driving	574.12
Photography	388.92
Expectant Parents	92.6

Projected Day Preferences - Rank Ordered

Tuesday	2.259.44
Monday	2.011.28
Thursday	2.055.72
Wednesday	1,777.92
Saturday	1,648.29
Friday	1,500.12

Projected Time Preferences - Rank Ordered

Time	Projected number
Evening	2,648.36
Afternoon	1,018.6
Morning	740.8

CONCLUSIONS

(1) The majority of those surveyed who responded to the question concerning comments on the school system and/or the community education concept made positive comments. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a positive feeling in the community regarding the school system and Community Education.

(2) It is to be concluded that the present location for vocational - technical instruction is not suitable for participation by the majority of the community.

(3) It can be concluded that there is a high degree of interest in a potential community education program.

(4) It is also concluded that there would be a high participation in such a Community Education program.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Strong consideration be given to prioritizing needs and that a systematic method of organization and implementation of Community Education be developed.
2. The school board and the school administration of Blanchard give serious consideration to the development of Community Education as a viable method of addressing community needs and interests.
3. Further study should be made regarding the practicability of the current vocational technical school arrangement since there was a 58% negative response concerning the present location.

Acknowledgements

This study is the result of a considerable amount of time and effort given by many individuals in Blanchard and at Oklahoma State University.

Over 30 Blanchard area residents contributed vitally to this effort. We are indebted to the Blanchard Community Education Advisory Council and for its advice and assistance in planning and organizaing the sruvey. The support of the Blanchard School System administrative staff is also appreciated.

Special thanks are also given to those who provided food and transportation for the survey team. Outstanding support was provided by a number of individuals at Oklahoma State University who spent many hours in helping refine the survey instrument and compiling the final analysis.

Efforts of all those mentioned above attest to the value placed on Community Education and its potential to enhance the quality of life in communities.